

1465

A N

ADDRESS

TO THE

Gentlemen, Clergy, Freeholders, and
Freemen, of the City

OF

K. Pockrich (R.)

DUBLIN.



DUBLIN:

Printed by OLI. NELSON, at Milton's-Head in Skinner-Row,
about 1749



ADDRESS, &c.

AS my ill Health has prevented me in my Intentions of waiting upon the several Corporations, at a time, my Attendance upon them might justly be expected, I take this Opportunity, to publish my Reasons, for having declared myself a Candidate, to represent this City in Parliament. An Occasion, I find, of Speculation to some, and Merriment to others.

And first as it has been computed, that near 7000 Pounds go yearly out of this Kingdom to *England*, for Malt-Liquors; I have for many Years past endeavoured to keep so large a Sum of Money at home, having on many Occasions proved, and am still ready to prove, that as good, and as fine-flavoured Malt-Liquors, may be brewed in this City, as in any part of *England*, and that at a much more easy and moderate Charge. - - Upon this Foundation, I may be presumed, the better enabled to satisfy the Parliament, of the reasonableness of a Bill, for the Encouragement of the Consumption of our Irish Malt-Liquors, as well as to prevent the Importation of those of English or foreign Production.

Secondly as the reclaiming of Bogs, particularly those of the shaking kind that want Consistence, have been hitherto thought, if not impracticable, at least too expensive for the Attempt; and as the converting such vast Tracts of unprofitable Land, into Pasture, Arable and Meadow, and that in a very little Time, and at a small and moderate Expence, a Method as yet unknown to any one but myself; is an Advantage too considerable to want enlarging upon: An Undertaking, or rather a feazable Scheme to this purpose, must certainly deserve the greatest Degree of Public Attention, and Encouragement. - - But as the Ways and Means of bringing so great an Undertaking to bear, cannot properly, at least effectually, be proposed out of Parliament; for this Reason, one that has made the reclaiming of Bogs his Study for many Years past, and who was the first in this Kingdom that thought of the Method now practised, may be the better qualified to satisfy

tisfy the Parliament of the fitness of a Bill, to give proper Encouragement for turning such Nufances into a general good.

Thirdly the great Encouragement of Numbers of my Fellow-Citizens, and their declar'd Confidence in an Integrity not to be corrupted; well knowing my Zeal, for the Prosperity of this City in particular, and the Kingdom in general.

I am not insensible, that Undertakings that deviate from the beaten Roads of Practice, are often treated as chimerical; especially in cases where the Fortune of the Person proposing, happens (as often) to be unequal to the Undertaking. Hence those Prejudices, Difficulties, and Discouragements that have attended my several Attempts; but which must vanish, when properly explained, and publickly considered by your Representatives in Parliament.

And as I was pretty well convinced I should have it greatly in my Power, as well as Inclination, to be of signal Service to this Kingdom in general, and particularly its Metropolis, by the many Friends I have in Parliament; I thought it a Duty incumbent on me, to offer my best Services to you, particularly at this critical juncture.

In order to redress the Grievances, there are three Essentials required in the Person who represents you. The first is to be inviolably attached to your Interest; but as it is impossible to see into the Hearts of Men, all you can do in this case, is to judge of the Integrity of a Candidate, by observing the Disposition of Mind he has discovered in his past Actions. Another necessary Qualification, is to be capable of representing the Case to the higher Powers, in the most tender and pathetick Manner. The Third, is to be well liked and known by those in Power; and as these three requisites don't often center in one Person; you have this happy Opportunity of choosing two Representatives, who can make up the Deficiencies of each other. Therefore it is not to be doubted, but you will, without any selfish View whatever, single out those who are most likely to serve you, on such an important Occasion.

Perhaps some may suffer a little, by disobliging the opposite Parties; but sure you must all acknowledge, that the restoring your ancient Rights, Liberties and Privileges, will by far out-balance such Trifles, which may soon vanish; but those are lasting Blessings, and Advantages, that will descend to your latest Posterity.

Among the several *Grievances* in this City, there are some of a very high Nature, which greatly affect the whole Community, and have not as yet been taken Notice of; yet loudly call for a *Reformation*. One of those public Abuses, is the monopolizing of our Commodities; particularly *Hides* and *Tallow*, which are

engrossed by a few Merchants, who are ever unanimous, in fixing such *Prices* as they think proper, upon those Goods; to which arbitrary Determination, the Manufacturers are obliged to submit; and must consequently charge the Public, in Proportion to what they pay for such unmanufactured Commodities.

Another considerable Hardship, is the Number of poor Objects we daily see in the Streets; notwithstanding the many *Poor-houses* and *Hospitals*, set a-part for their Relief; the yearly *Revenues* of which, beside the many Bounties given, if properly applied, would undoubtedly free us from the importunate Supplications of so many miserable Creatures. - - - It were greatly to be wished, some other Expedient could be thought of, than what has hitherto been practised, to make such Charities flow in their proper Channels. - - - The only Method, in my humble Opinion, is to have Inspectors, of known Integrity, chosen by the House-keepers of this City, and consequently independant of any others, to enquire strictly into the Conduct and Management of the acting *Governours*, and their *Assistants*; but in particular, those of the *Work-house*, which is a heavy Tax upon the City, and yet the Poor continue as great a Burthen as ever. It is not to be doubted, but the Honourable and worthy Gentlemen, already appointed for that purpose, whose Time is too precious to be taken up in such strict Inquiries, will readily approve of any Proposal, that can possibly contribute to so good an End.

I need not take up your Time, with a recital of several other *Grievances* you have long laboured under, as they are well known by the uncommon Assiduity, and Penetration, of your worthy Fellow-Citizen and Candidate Mr. *Lucas*; who has awakened you from your *Lethargy*, and made you sensible of the many Injuries you have received, from those who ought to look upon you, with the Eye of a *Kind, Tender and Loving Father*; but, to my great Concern, seem to think of nothing but filling their *Coffers*, and aggrandizing their *Families*; while the good of the *Community* lies totally neglected. - - - which will ever be the Case, if the management of Affairs continues in the manner they now are; and the Chief Magistrate comes in by Seniority, or the Consent of a few: not but we may sometimes be happy in the *Father* of our City, the Gentleman, who now fills that Place, being a glorious Instance of it. Whereas if the Lord Mayor was to be elected in the same manner your Representatives in Parliament are, which undoubtedly ought to be the Case; then you might always expect to have a Man of *Honour, Justice and Integrity* to preside over you. - - - And it is greatly to be wished, that such *Elections* were to be determined by the old Grecian way of balloting;

loting; which would have this happy Effect, that honest Men could act agreeable to their Consciences, without incurring the Displeasure of any Person.

I must beg leave to observe, that ever since the happy Reign of **QUEEN ELIZABETH**, which was the Time my *Predecessors* first settled at *Eniskillen*, they have, upon all Occasions, exerted themselves, at the hazard of their Lives and Fortunes, in defence of **LIBERTY**, and the **CHURCH** of **ENGLAND** as by Law established, to which *Doctrine* they have, Time immemorial, by both Sides of the House, inviolably adhered.

As I have passed thro' variety of Scenes, and found, what that wise King observed, that *all was Vanity*; and having no *Family* to provide for, or *Desires* to gratify, but what my present Circumstances can do more than afford; I may justly affirm, it is not in the Power of Bribery or Corruption, to make me guilty of a base Action, or betray my Trust, were I in the lowest Ebb of Misfortunes. - - - And as I never shewed the least Ambition to be an *Alderman*, by passing thro' any of the requisite Forms; it is not to be supposed I shall ever be made one of them, and consequently one of their *Party*; having lately shewed a Spirit of Opposition, to the ambitious Views of one of that *August Body*; who was not satisfied to ride triumphant on the Backs of Citizens in common with the rest of his Fraternity, but must extend his Conquests farther, and make a whole County feel the Weight of his Power.

But if we are to be rid, by those who have always been remarkable for a large competency of *Paunch*; the only Remedy is to *Sweat* them well, by applying proper *Sudorificks*, which will bring them down to a reasonable Weight, and discharge all their gross, or rather *engross* *Humours*, that otherwise might in Time prove as fatal to themselves, as to their *Creatures* of *Burthen*.--- And as this Method has been lately practised, with good Success, by a Gentleman of uncommon Skill and Knowledge, in the Body natural and politic; it is to be hoped, we may be able in time to amble cheerfully under them.

However merry I make with those *Senators*, I would not be thought inclinable to insult an *Enemy*, or, more properly speaking, a *yielding Adversary*, that by their Silence seem ingenuously to confess their *Errors*, and to remove those Grievances, that have been the Consequence of them. - - - As I have but few Acquaintance among the Honourable Board of Aldermen, 'tis but a Justice due to them to presume in favour of their private Characters; long Custom and Practice, may have misled them; but when made sensible of their Mistakes, I persuade myself, they will

will be willing and ready to retract them, and join in any Scheme that will be conducive of the *public Good*.

I find there is some Stress laid upon the Initial Letters of Candidates Names, which perhaps require some Speculation. It is a common Observation, that People are apt to contract a Friendship from the *similitude* of Names; and by Parity of Reason I presume; for want of such a *similitude*, the first Letters of their Names will do; nay farther if they should happen to be next each other in the Alphabet is sufficient. Unhappy those *Candidates*, who must stand or fall by themselves, for want of such happy Incidents. But if the first Letter of a Candidate's Name is emblematick of his Principles, I think none can have a more happy Signification than mine; as you may find in the Letter **P**,

Perseverance in Patronizing, Protecting, and Preserving, the Properties, Priviledges, Patrimonies, and Possessions of the Publick, against Prevailing Power and Pre-eminence. But not-

withstanding there are so many happy significant Words beginning with a P, yet there is something still wanting, which requires the Assistance of another Letter, which stands for *LIBERTY*; were it possible to unite those two Letters, you would find every thing in them that a *good King*, and his *Subjects* could desire; *LIBERTY* and *PROPERTY*, *LOYALTY* and *PATRIOTISM*.

According to the above Rule, an Alderman is vey unhappy in the first Letter of his Title, which intimates an Absolute, Arbitrary, Anticonstitutional Association; Abolishing, Abridging, Altering, Abrogating, Alienating, Abusing, Appropriating and Abbreviating all antient Atchievements, Allotments, Appurtenances, and

Advantages of the People. However, just the above Observation may be in the general, I am pretty well satisfied, they are so in these two Instances, particularly in regard to myself; being very well convinced, no one would oppose such *Combinations*, with more Zeal than I should; were it in my Power so to do. But it is greatly to be feared, that the People of this Kingdom, will always, like *Ireland's Eye*, continue blind to their own Interest, and turn those into *Ridicule*, who study most to serve them, but like *Spaniels* fawn on those who chastise them: The former of which I have an experimental Knowledge of, having attempted several things, which were evidently for the Advantage of this Kingdom; but instead of meeting with the *Encouragement* which might reasonably have been expected, met with nothing but *Disappointments*, thro' the mistaken Prejudice they were pleased to conceive against me, for no other Reason, as I can imagine, than because I always made this City my Place of Residence, and studied all pleasurable Schemes, such as Assemblies, *Vaux-Halls* &c. as so many Inducements to keep our Gentry at home, and prevent their rambling, and throwing the Treasure of their native Country into Foreign Hands: But as my Plans for that Purpose, have since been practised by others with Success; what may be urged as an Objection to my present Views upon that Account, will, I am perswaded, upon due Consideration, appear the *strongest Arguments* in my Favour.

I have likewise for many Years endeavoured to establish a Charitable Musical Society, in order to raise a Fund for the Support of poor Tradesmen, upon the late Revd. Dean *SWIFT'S* well judged Plan; and tho' I made it appear to all my Acquaintance, how usefull and extensive, such a Charity would in Time prove; yet that has met with the same Fate of the rest; but still hope, so good a Work will some time or other be effected.

I make no Doubt, but my present Attempt, to serve my Country, will be frustrated; tho' I can solemnly declare, it is not out of the least *Ambition* to have a Seat in *Parliament*; an Honour, which I never would desire, or accept of, if it were not purely to have an Opportunity of effecting my Designs for the *public Good*.

As I have made mention of two most useful Discoveries, as to the Improvement of *Bogs*, and vying with any Part of the World for *Malt-Liquors*; I hope no one will expect, I should make them known, to let others have the *Credit* or *Advantage* of them, as in the Cases before-mentioned; at least, till I find the Publick has a more grateful Sense of my past *Endeavours* to serve them,

them, at the Expence of my *Fortune, Ease, and Quiet.* And as all the Circumstances mentioned here are Matters of Fact, and can be attested by Numbers of People; it is not to be imagined, you'll be such Enemies to your Country, to discourage a Person, in whose Power it is, to be of unspeakable Service to you, and who longs for an Opportunity to convince you, with how much Truth and Sincerity, I am,

Gentlemen,

Your most obedient,

Humble Servant,

RICHARD POEKRICH.

6 DE 58

